

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 124

Introduced by Assembly Member Calderon
(Coauthors: Senators Allen and Nielsen)

January 21, 2016

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 124—Relative to the Arts Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 124, as introduced, Calderon. Arts Council: 40th anniversary.

This measure would declare the importance of the arts to the state and the essential role of the Arts Council in promoting the arts throughout the state, and would congratulate the Arts Council on 40 years of service to state and honor the Art Council’s rich history and celebrate a bright future for the arts in our state.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Our state arts agency, the California Arts Council,
2 was established by Governor Edmund G. Brown and came into
3 being on January 1, 1976; and
4 WHEREAS, Governor Brown created the California Arts
5 Council on the basis that the arts are central to the lives of
6 Californians; and
7 WHEREAS, Since the 1970s, the Arts Council, also known as
8 the California Arts Council, has served the state by strategically
9 promoting increased access to the arts for all Californians,
10 particularly for residents living in communities that lack sufficient
11 and convenient opportunities to experience the benefits of the arts
12 in their lives; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2016, California’s state arts agency celebrates
2 its 40th anniversary. During its four decades of existence, the
3 California Arts Council has awarded thousands of grants with a
4 total investment of \$368,000,000. California is home to more artists
5 than any other state, and the creative industries account for one in
6 10 jobs statewide; and

7 WHEREAS, The arts are fundamental to our human experience.
8 The arts inspire us to see our human potential by fostering
9 creativity, goodness, and beauty. The arts help us express our
10 values, build bridges between cultures, and bring people together,
11 regardless of perceived differences in ethnicity, religion, or age.
12 As a well-known idiom reminds us, “When times are tough, art is
13 salve for the ache”; and

14 WHEREAS, The arts invigorate the state and national
15 economies. The creative sector has become one of the state’s most
16 important drivers of economic growth. The 2013 OTIS Report on
17 the Creative Economy, analyzing the economic impact of the
18 creative economy in the state, concluded that 9.7 percent of jobs
19 in the state are connected, directly or indirectly, to the creative
20 industries. A recent report by the U.S. Bureau of Economic
21 Analysis concluded that the arts and culture sector represents 3.2
22 percent of the nation’s gross domestic product in 2011; and

23 WHEREAS, The arts bolster small and large businesses and the
24 nonprofit sector. Local merchants directly benefit when people
25 attend art events in their community because attendees make
26 purchases related to the event, including, among other things, meals
27 and parking. Nationally, in 2011, exports from the United States
28 of art-related goods, including, but not limited to, movies,
29 paintings, and jewelry, substantially increased and resulted in a
30 trade surplus within the arts industry. The national nonprofit arts
31 industry annually generates billions in economic activity and
32 provides millions of jobs; and

33 WHEREAS, The arts increase tourism and travel. Arts travelers
34 are ideal tourists, staying longer and spending more to seek out
35 authentic cultural experiences than other types of travelers. Reports
36 show that the percentage of international travelers visiting museums
37 and attending concerts and theater performances has steadily grown
38 since 2003; and

39 WHEREAS, The arts spark creativity and innovation in the
40 workforce. Creativity is recognized as one of the top five applied

1 employee skills sought by business leaders. Nobel Laureates in
2 the sciences are 17 times more likely to be actively engaged in the
3 arts than other scientists; and

4 WHEREAS, The arts enhance our society. A recent study
5 demonstrated that a high concentration of the arts in a city leads
6 to higher civic engagement, more social cohesion, improved child
7 welfare, and lower poverty rates. A vibrant arts community ensures
8 that young people are not left to experience their society through
9 a pop culture and tabloid marketplace; and

10 WHEREAS, The arts improve health care. Nearly one-half of
11 the nation's health care institutions provide arts programming for
12 patients, families, and staff on the basis that art programs promote
13 healing in patients, resulting in shorter hospital stays, better pain
14 management, and less medication; and

15 WHEREAS, The arts improve academic performance. Students
16 with an education rich in the arts have higher grades and
17 standardized test scores and lower rates of dropping out of school.
18 Students with four years of arts or music in high school average
19 100 more points on their SAT scores than students with just
20 one-half of a year of arts or music. While arts education is
21 mandated by state law, California is failing to provide a sufficient
22 arts education. For the past 30 years arts education in schools has
23 been disappearing at an alarming rate. Between 1999 and 2004,
24 student enrollment in music education declined by almost half.
25 The state's recent fiscal crisis has resulted in still more dramatic
26 cuts to visual and performing arts education programs for students
27 throughout the state; and

28 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
29 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature declares the importance
30 of the arts to the state and the essential role of the Arts Council in
31 promoting the arts throughout the state; and be it further

32 *Resolved*, That the Legislature joins arts supporters from around
33 the state to congratulate the Arts Council on 40 years of service
34 to the state and its residents and to honor the Arts Council's rich
35 history and celebrate a bright future for the arts in our state; and
36 be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit
- 2 sufficient copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate
- 3 distribution.